

H 7648

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

June 21, 1967

After Altape, the 31st made its way through Japanese-held territory, Hollandia, Toem, Wakde Island, Maffin Bay were all areas where the 31st went on its trappings in the jungle in search of the Japanese. The division continued to move forward.

After the conquest of New Guinea (where all three regiments earned campaign streamers) the next stop for the 31st was the Philippines.

The Philippine Islands were Gen. MacArthur's next objective. The general had said, "I shall return," and he meant to keep his word.

The old warriors were back together again—the firm and stern MacArthur and the Alabamians.

For the return to the Philippines an air base was needed. Intelligence reports disclosed that the Japanese had begun construction of an airstrip on the island of Morotal. In September 1944, the 31st, made up of the 124th, 155th and 167th Infantry Regiments, took the island with light resistance from the Japanese. Gen. MacArthur had the island for his needed airstrip.

In April 1945, the 31st played a major role in the liberation of the second largest island in the Philippines, Mindanao. The island was taken, but total Japanese resistance did not cease after the island had been secured. The 31st Division was assigned to remedy this. Again the men of the Dixie took to the hot, muggy, swamps and insect infested jungles.

World War II service cost the 31st Division 1,709 casualties. Its record, however, speaks for itself. The Dixie killed 7,346 Japanese soldiers, captured 22,405 military prisoners, and took 11,918 Japanese civilians prisoner on the islands which it secured.

Campaign streamers for World War II service include: Southern Philippines, 124th Regiment and 155th; Western Pacific and Southern Philippines for the 167th. All three regiments earned New Guinea streamers.

One member of the Dixie Division, Cpl. Harry R. Harr, Company D, 124th Regiment, earned posthumously the Medal of Honor on June 5, 1945, near Maglamin, Mindanao, the Philippine Islands.

A fierce counterattack by Japanese infantrymen was launched against Harr's machine gun position. A grenade landed in the machine gun emplacement, putting the weapon out of action and wounding two of the crew. As the men tried to repair the weapon, another grenade landed in the crowded emplacement. Harr realized quickly that he could not throw the grenade before it exploded.

Unhesitatingly he covered the grenade with his body to smother the explosion. He gave his life so four of his comrades could live.

Most of the Dixie Division came home and was deactivated at Camp Stoneman, California, on Dec. 12, 1945. The regiments were then returned to the state for National Guard duty.

The announced planned enrollment of two Negroes as students into the University of Alabama at the main campus in Tuscaloosa brought the 31st Division out under orders from Gov. George Wallace. The time was June 1963. Gov. Wallace tried to block the admission by using the Dixie Division.

President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order No. 11,111 federalizing the Dixie Division. With the stroke of a pen, the troops found themselves under federal command and on opposite sides of the fence.

With the federalization of the Alabama National Guard, the admission of James A. Hood and Vivian Malone as students proceeded quietly. Most of the Dixie guardsmen were released from federal service after five days. Some stayed longer. While at the University, the troops were under the command of Maj. Gen. Alfred Harrison.

To prevent the integration of public schools in Birmingham, Mobile and Tuskegee, Gov. Wallace again called out the Dixie

Division in September 1963. Once again President Kennedy federalized the guardsmen and removed them from the governor's control. The desegregation proceeded quietly.

On March 20, 1965, the 31st again heard the federalization call. This time it was from President Lyndon B. Johnson. The President did so in order to protect the participants of the planned Selma-Montgomery march. Gov. George Wallace had said that he did not have the men at his disposal to adequately protect the marchers.

The march, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, began on March 24. It was accompanied by some 4,000 Dixie Division troops under the command of Brig. Henry Graham, the present assistant commander of the Dixie.

The citizen-soldiers have come a long way since their first use in the American Revolution. The members of the 31st Infantry "Dixie" Division have a proud heritage. They have shown themselves to be up to any task, be it in war or peace.

The 31st Infantry Division, a pride of Dixie, was born during the fear and closeness of war. It survived that war and the next one.

Now, in a troubled peace, the Dixie may die.

file

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. TAFT. Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced a concurrent resolution which if adopted by the House and concurred in by the Senate would advise the President of the sense of Congress with regard to obtaining a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. I recognize that my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, CHARLES WHALEN, and a number of other Members have introduced resolutions which differ only slightly from mine. Accordingly, I take no special pride of authorship in the form of my resolution. I also note that the proposals being made by Ambassador Goldberg on behalf of the United States at the United Nations are in many respects parallel to the proposals in the resolution.

It is important that Congress, at the earliest possible date, take up consideration of the principles which should govern our position with regard to a Middle East settlement. By doing so, we can give backing to the President and help in forming a firm and united position on the part of the American people, something that may well be essential to giving full impact to the American position in international councils.

I therefore urge that the House Committee on Foreign Affairs take up without delay this resolution and other similar resolutions and that action be taken upon them. Delay only adds confusion to the situation.

UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM EVALUATED FAVORABLY BY OKLAHOMA BAPTIST TRUSTEES

Mr. STEED. Mr. Speaker, the Upward Bound program is one of the phases of the activities of the Office of Economic Opportunity thus far relatively little known to the public.

The Headstart program for pre-school-age youngsters has received widespread acclaim. Upward Bound aims to achieve similar goals with high school juniors and seniors. It takes young people from this age group with college

potential undeveloped because of a disadvantaged background, and seeks to prepare them for college work.

A year ago some 100 young people from 23 high schools in central Oklahoma took part in a program coordinated at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

A few weeks ago I wrote the trustees of the university to ask their opinion of Upward Bound and whether they feel it is functioning effectively and is worthy of implementation. Without exception those who replied feel this program is worth continuing.

On the basis of testimony like this, coming from other institutions in my district as well, I believe that Upward Bound, properly implemented, shows promise of paying off manifold in future increased earning power for the relatively modest investment it requires.

The replies follow:

HOLLIS, OKLA.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STEED: Thank you for your letter giving me an opportunity to evaluate the Upward Bound Program as it was performed at O.B.U. last year. I am sure that you probably have some of the facts and results of progress that are more thorough than my assessment would be, but here goes anyway. I was preacher for the summer school for preachers on the campus at O.B.U. one week last summer and had an opportunity to observe the work for a few days. The young people seem to be well adjusted to the situation and making real progress. Everything seemed to go fine between the school and the boys and girls. I have talked with some of the faculty since that time and they seem to think that it was a real success.

I received a report from the Head Start Program from Sargent Shriver's office and it was phenomenal in the help that was rendered, it appeared to me. He pointed out that eighty per cent of the high school seniors in Upward Bound continued their education with seventy-eight per cent going on to college. The rate of this population going on to college ordinarily was eight percent. Furthermore only twelve per cent of these Upward Bound Alumni dropped out during their freshman year of college. This seems to be less than half the customary college dropout rate for such students. According to his report of the nineteen thousand students enrolled in the Upward Bound Program at the beginning of last summer 91.6 per cent entered the academic phase of the program in the fall of 1966. I know this is a total report of the Upward Bound Program across the nation but I would assume O.B.U.'s part in the program was comparable to that in other places. I am enthusiastically in favor of continuing this program and I believe it is a great help to the very potential dropout students that need it and that we need to help.

Thank you so much for writing. I trust that these remarks will be of some small value.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT L. CARGILL,
Pastor, First Baptist Church.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

DEAR MR. STEED: You wrote a few days ago to inquire concerning the Upward Bound program and its effectiveness at Oklahoma Baptist University. The only information I have is what has been passed on to us in trustee meetings by the administration at the school, along with some few comments from outsiders. My impressions from these two sources are good. I had occasion to talk with one Negro lady whose son was involved in it and she was very complimentary and

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The 155th Infantry Regiment proudly bears the campaign streamers "Florida" and "New Orleans" for this service.

The 1st Mississippi Infantry Regiment (Mississippi Rifles), under the command of Col. Jefferson Davis, entered federal service in June 1846 to fight against the Mexicans. Davis resigned from the U.S. House of Representatives to take command of the regiment. Serving under the command of Gen. Zachary Taylor, Col. Davis proved himself a hero at the Battle of Monterey (September 1846) and at the Battle of Buena Vista (Feb. 22, 1847).

Col. Davis and the 1st Mississippi Infantry saved Gen. Taylor at Buena Vista. Using a V-formation in deploying his troops, Davis rallied the Americans. This tactic made even the military of Europe sit up and take notice.

It was also at Buena Vista that Davis said, "Stand fast, Mississippians," when the other troops were beginning to fall back under the Mexican attack. Today "Stand Fast" is the motto of the 155th Infantry Regiment.

For its distinguished service, the 155th carries campaign streamers inscribed "Monterey" and "Buena Vista."

For almost 20 years things were quiet. The birth of a nation saw the regiment once again march off to war. As the 1st Regiment of Infantry, the Army of Mississippi, the 155th entered Confederate service on Sept. 10, 1861.

The regiment's deployment during the Civil War can easily be seen by the campaign streamers it won. "Henry and Donelson," "Mississippi River," "Franklin," "Nashville" and "North Carolina, 1865."

During the course of the war, the regiment was reorganized twice, the last time as the 22nd Mississippi Infantry. It surrendered on April 26, 1865, near Durham Station, N.C. It was pardoned at Greensboro and allowed to return home.

Reorganization of the regiment took place in 1876. It became part of the Mississippi Militia. The name was changed to Mississippi National Guard on March 3, 1888.

Drafted into federal service Aug. 5, 1917, as the war clouds from Europe reached the United States, the regiment was redesignated the 155th Infantry and assigned to service with the 39th (Louisiana and Arkansas National Guard) Infantry Division.

Another regiment that has fought with the 31st Division is the 167th Infantry. It traces its history back to 1836, when it was organized as a regiment of Alabama militia under the command of Col. William Chisolm. It served with distinction during the war against the Seminoles, and carries a campaign streamer for this service.

During the next 25 years, the regiment or parts of it was mustered into federal service for short periods. Otherwise, the regiment served as independent militia companies in the central part of the state.

Reorganized as part of the 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment, the 167th was mustered into Confederate service on May 2, 1861, at Dalton, Ga.

The campaign streamers, 13 of them, testify to the journey of the regiment during the four years. Bull Run . . . Peninsula . . . Manassas . . . Antietam . . . Fredericksburg . . . Chancellorsville . . . Gettysburg . . . under Gen. James Longstreet at the battle of Chickamauga . . . the Wilderness . . . Spotsylvania . . . Cold Harbor (where the regiment lost 108 men killed of 500 engaged) . . . Petersburg . . . and finally Appomattox. The regiment surrendered, as part of Gen. W. F. Perry's brigade, with the Army of Northern Virginia under Gen. Robert E. Lee, at Appomattox Court House, Va., on April 9, 1865.

It was not until 1875 that the regiment was reorganized as the 1st Regiment of Infantry from existing independent militia companies. The units were the Montgomery Greys, the Governor's Guard (Montgomery), Selma Guard, Greenville Light Guards, the Conecuh Guards, Troy Light Guards, the

Bullock Guards (Union Springs), Eufaula Rifles, Birmingham Rifles, the Lee Light Infantry (Opelika), Gainesville Rifles and the Tuskegee Light Infantry.

Further reorganization and redesignation broke some of the detachments of the 167th (4th Alabama) into the 200th Infantry Regiment. Both served with the Dixie Division during World War II and are still part of the division now.

Other units of the 167th became part of of the Alabama State Troops in 1877. The Alabama National Guard was established Feb. 18, 1897, when the State Troops were redesignated.

Through several more reorganizations and redesignations the regiment once again became the 4th Alabama on July 15, 1911.

The 4th Alabama entered federal service Aug. 5, 1917. Ten days later it was redesignated the 167th Infantry Regiment and assigned to the 42nd "Rainbow" Division Infantry.

The 167th was under the command of Col. (later Brig. Gen.) William P. Screws—the nephew of the one-time Montgomery Advertiser publisher-editor William Wallace Screws—was one of the first American regiments to be put into the line in France after the arrival of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe.

The chief of staff of the 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division was Col. Douglas MacArthur. It was the first time the Alabamians fought under the hard officer. The next time would be almost around the world, in the steaming jungles of the Pacific. The enemy would be different, the division would be the Dixie, and the colonel would have become the General of the Army. The result, however, was the same. They won.

The trek of the 167th Infantry through France was a long one. The men from the hills and forests and cotton fields fought well on the often muddy soil of France.

"We Shall Drive Forward" is the motto of the 167th. It did and with valor. The campaign streamers with the names of France such as Champagne-Marne . . . Aisne-Marne . . . Lorraine. St. Mihiel . . . Champagne . . . Meuse-Argonne . . . embroidered upon them testify to the fact.

One soldier of the 167th brought glory upon himself and the regiment. He was Cpl. Sidney E. Manning, Company G. The date was July 28, 1918, and the place was near Brevannes, France.

After his platoon commander and platoon sergeant became casualties in assaulting the fortified heights on the Oureq River, Manning took command of the platoon. He was severely wounded but led 35 remaining platoon members and succeeded in gaining a foothold on the enemy's position.

Manning was wounded several more times, and only seven men of the platoon remained. By automatic rifle fire, Cpl. Manning held off the enemy while directing the consolidation of the position. He did not seek cover until his line was consolidated with the platoon in front of his own. Here he dragged himself to shelter, suffering from nine wounds in all parts of his body.

For his gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty, Cpl. Sidney E. Manning was awarded the Medal of Honor, this nation's highest decoration.

Dubbed "les tigres" (the Tigers) by the French, the 167th first had encountered the enemy on Feb. 18, 1918. The meeting was not a pleasant one. A German airplane dropped a bomb on the regimental headquarters!

The first man-to-man combat encountered the 167th had came 10 days later.

The 167th scored a "first" during World War I. It has the distinction and honor of being the first American unit to knock down an airplane by rifle fire. The feat was accomplished by a private, Brock Hill, on April 28, 1918.

Perhaps in repayment for the bombing of the headquarters.

The shield of the regiment shows a bend archy in the colors of the rainbow (to denote its service with the 42nd Division), five fleur-de-lis (for the five major campaigns in which the regiment was engaged in France) and the Greek cross, in red, with edges embattled (for the offensive on the entrenched Croix Rouge—Red Cross—farm below Fere en Tardenois on July 26-27, 1918, which serves as a commemoration of the event).

What was to become the 200th Infantry Regiment was organized as a battalion on the 1st Regiment, Alabama Volunteers, in May 1846. It passed through numerous reorganizations and redesignations and ended up as the 3rd Alabama Infantry in Confederate service on April 26, 1861, with Col. J. M. Withers commanding.

The 3rd Alabama earned streamers at Peninsula, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Virginia 1863, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Shenandoah and Appomattox.

Not until 1871-72 was the unit reorganized, as small independent militia companies. These units served with the Alabama State Troops and the Alabama National Guard.

The 200th was mustered into federal service in 1916; in 1917, it was drafted into federal service and it was redesignated the 123rd Infantry Regiment, 31st Division, on Sept. 18, 1917.

The regiment was returned to the Alabama National Guard in 1946, after seeing wartime service with the Dixie Division in World War II.

Part of the 121st Infantry Regiment (old Second Georgia) served with the 31st during World War I. Three companies, F, H and I of the 121st were removed from the 31st and joined to form the 151st Machine Gun Battalion. The 151st Machine Gun Battalion also served with the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division under Col. McArthur during World War I. Its campaign streamers for this service are "Champagne-Marne," "Aisne-Marne," "Lorraine," "Champagne," "St. Mihiel" and "Meuse-Argonne."

The 124th Infantry Regiment first joined the 31st Division in 1917. After World War I service, it was moved to the 39th Infantry (Louisiana and Arkansas National Guard) Division. It rejoined the Dixie Division on April 5, 1944, and saw service with it during the entire war.

The 31st Infantry "Dixie" Division was deactivated in January 1919. Its regiments were returned to their states and served with the national guard until the federal government reactivated the divisions.

The war in Europe raged and the U.S. began to prepare for the possibility of having to fight in that war. On Oct. 25, 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the National Guards of the states into federal service. The 31st went on active duty Nov. 11, 1940. Maj. Gen. John C. Persons of Birmingham commanding.

The Dixie Division went into training in the swamps of Louisiana, moving from there to different parts of the United States for other combat-readiness techniques. After initial training had been completed, the 31st was used to train other troops.

It was not until January 1944 that the Dixie Division left the U.S. for the Pacific. In March 1944, the division assembled at DeBrochure, New Guinea. Its first combat was at Aitape. Here the Dixie Division opposed the 20th, 41st and 51st Japanese Divisions. The Dixie proved itself up for the task of taking on the Japanese.

While in Pacific the 31st was under the command of Maj. Gen. John C. Persons. He was allowed to take his National Guard division into combat. Only one other division had its guard commander while in the battle line.